

entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burton A. Amernick", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Burton A. Amernick (24,852)  
Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP  
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20036-3425  
Telephone: 202-331-7111

Date: 1-16-01

0044260-232470